Ms. B.1.6 v.8. p.24

New York, May 9. 1860.

Dear friend Webb,

Owing to a wrong impression as to the time of the closing of the English Steamer's mails this morning, I have lost the opportunity of sending to you to-day, which I am very sorry for, as I desired you to have as early as possible notice of the postponement of Mr. Garrison's visit to England — (and if it prove but a "postponement", we shall be glad.) However, the delay enables me to tell you that our first day's Meetings (yesterday) were of unsurpassed excellence and interest. I deem it quite a significant sign of the Progress of our Cause and of Public feeling amongst us that not less than four Orthodox ministers came and spoke upon our platform yesterday, and all strongly & heartily, viz. Dr. Cheever, Rev. A. B. Bradford of the "Free Presbyterians", & Editor of the Church Portfolio, Rev. Dr. Beriah Green, one of the very earliest Abolitionists, but not for 20 yrs. previously to now on our platform, and Rev. Mr. Sloane of the "Reformed Presbyterians" [Covenanters] of this city, who has been a steadfast friend, for several years, of our Society, and always a true abolitionist. You will have all their hearty utterances at full length, doubtless in the Standard. And to the above four, I should add the old veteran Rev. Daniel Worth (a Methodist I believe) who has just escaped, so to speak, from a North Carolina prison, where he was sentenced to a confinement of four years for the crime of circulating four copies of Helper's Crisis of the South, - a book, be it remembered, not addressed to the colored people of the South, whether slave or free, but distinctly to the non-slaveholding whites of the South; nor was it even alleged against Rev. Mr. Worth (who, as somebody remarked in our Meeting, seemed worth a score or two of ~~ordin~~ common doctors of divinity) that he had offered these books, or spoken of their contents, to any colored person whatever! But the Court decided it was a felony to distribute the book, because its "tendency," was to excite uneasiness and discontent among the slaves! Such is North Carolina law to-day! Mr. Worth is out of prison, ~~temporarily~~ owing to the kindness of a few men, some of them slaveholders, who gave bail for him in the sum of $3000; and ~~Mr.~~ he ~~Worth~~, has come ~~quietly~~ to the North, to see if he can raise that sum to send to his bondsmen; if not, he says he shall return to North Carolina and submit himself to his sentence. He is a man of 60 or 65 yrs, very tall, and formerly proportionably stout; but, from the effects of his imprisonment, has become thin and spare. He is certain, he says, he could not live out his sentence in Greensboro' jail, ~~where~~ in which he has been confined for many months past.

Later. Our Meetings continued of great interest to the end, and you will soon have a full report. The closing meeting, (that of the Auxiliary City Anti-Slavery Society,) on Wednesday evening was brilliant and effective to an unequalled extent. The immense hall of the Cooper Institute was packed entirely full, seats & aisles, area and platform, and the speeches of Theodore Tilton, Wendell Phillips, and Mr. Garrison, received with the closest attention on the part of all, - with the warmest expressions of approbation by most.

[I close my note, at Leicester, whither I have just returned.] Farewell, Truly Yrs, S. May Jr.